

N E W S R E L E A S E

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LABOR DAY REPORT REFLECTS SUSTAINED JOB GROWTH

SACRAMENTO – California's labor market this year is showing signs of robust activity with increased employment and falling unemployment according to a report, [A Labor Day Briefing for California](#), released today by the Employment Development Department (EDD).

Employment is at an all-time high with 16.9 million people employed -- 14.8 million in wage and salary employment and approximately 2 million self-employed. Unemployment is the lowest it has been in more than four years with 914,000 people out of work, and an unemployment rate of 5.1 percent in July!

"Labor Day is a special holiday to honor the great contributions of the working men and women of America, and an excellent time to look at California's labor force -- to see where we've been, where we are and where we're going," said EDD Director Patrick Henning. "Governor Schwarzenegger's efforts to promote opportunities for our workforce and businesses continue to have a positive impact."

The report highlights a changing workforce as the baby boom generation ages. Not only are older workers becoming an increasingly active segment of the labor force, but there's a dramatic increase in the number of women in the workforce from this segment of the population.

The three largest industry sectors of payroll employment are: trade, transportation and utilities -- employing 2.8 million persons; government -- employing 2.4 million persons; and professional and business services, with 2.2 million workers. These three sectors account for half of California's total nonfarm jobs.

In addition, [A Labor Day Briefing for California](#) report highlights the manufacturing industry, which is the fourth largest industry sector in the state, and currently employs over 1.5 million workers. While there is a common perception that the manufacturing industry is declining, the National Association of Manufacturers has called attention to a serious shortage of qualified applicants and points out that many manufacturing occupations in California are growing. EDD projects strong growth of 60 percent or more in such occupations as tool and die makers, machinists, inspectors, packers, and filling machine operators.

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One reason for the expected growth is that many workers in manufacturing are expected to retire over the next decade. In addition, many manufacturing jobs now stress design, production, and logistic skills, relying more on computer-controlled automation and technical know-how, thus, making computer skills highly desirable. There is also an increased need for job applicants who have two-year technical degrees.

Overall, the report demonstrates that California's nonfarm employment is expected to grow at a rate of 1.6 percent in 2006 and add about 235,000 new jobs. While many of the job openings will occur in entry-level positions, there is and will continue to be a substantial demand for workers in higher paying occupations, led by registered nurses and managers.

In addition to new jobs added over the year, many of the positions filled each year replace persons previously in those positions. EDD's CalJOBS system, an Internet-based, no fee job service system that brings people and jobs together, records over 1.3 million users per year.

A Labor Day Briefing for California is prepared each year to report on the state's labor markets as the nation commemorates Labor Day. The report identifies which occupations are forecasted to experience the greatest growth and what kind of education and on-the-job training is required. The complete report can be found on EDD's Web site at www.edd.ca.gov in the "News" section under the heading "Labor Day Briefing."

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